

Message Text

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15

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2492

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1155

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/RSS - MRS. MANZOLI; BEIRUT; FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR KU UR

SUBJECT: AEROFLOT IN KUWAIT

1. EMBOFF RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM MIT STUDENT PREPARING DISSERTATION ON AEROFLOT ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD. ACCORDING LETTER THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS IN CIVIL AIR PRESS RECENTLY OF KUWAIT-SOVIET AIR ACCORD. WE REPLYING DIRECTLY TO MIT STUDENT, BUT BELIEVE ADDRESSEES WILL BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING INFO WHICH IS GIST OF OUR ANSWER TO HER QUESTIONS.

2. THERE IS NO RPT NO KUWAIT-USSR BILATERAL CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT, AND AEROFLOT DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE LANDING OR TRAFFIC RIGHTS IN KUWAIT. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, GOK DID AGREE TO ALLOW AEROFLOT TO MAKE REGULAR TECHNICAL STOP HERE ON ITS COLOMBO/MOSCOW SERVICE. DGCA SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO PASSENGER OR CARGO ASPECTS TO TECHNICAL STOP, WHICH PRESUMABLY PRIMARILY FOR REFUELING. AEROFLOT HAD OFFICE HERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IT IS STAFFED BY ARABIC SPEAKING SOVIET.

3. COMMENT: AEROFLOT'S TECHNICAL STOP HERE HAS BEEN INITIATED
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WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL FANFARE. WHILE IT IS NOT A TRUE COMMERCIAL

LANDING RIGHT, IT COULD BE CONSIDERED AS THIN EDGE OF WEDGE
FOR AEROFLOT IN REGION. WHATEVER SOVIET CIVIL AIR GOALS ARE,
FROM KUWAITI SIDE THERE MINIMAL INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING KUWAIT-
MOSCOW SERVICE, NOR DOES THERE APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT COMMER-
CIAL POTENTIAL IN SUCH A ROUTE FOR INTEREST TO DEVELOP. UNDER
NEW ANTI-COMMUNIST DGCA SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT GOK WILL BE SEEKING
MORE EXTENSIVE BILATERAL CIVIL AIR ARRANGEMENTS FROM SOVIETS
THAN EXIST ALREADY.
STOLTZFUS

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